

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING

MINUTES OF November 9, 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:30 am.

PRESENT: Will Bigl (2018), Laurie McMorow (2017), Don Nolan (2017), Bettejane Karnes (2018), Nancy Trawick Smith (2017), Martina Wharton (2018), Bev Korba (2018)

STAFF: Pat Schneider, Human Services Director, Sara Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor

GUESTS: Nora Stevens and Jim Fedanza (Mansfield Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation Administrator)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Judy Bigl (Jensen's) & John Adamick (Wright's Way)

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Palmer, Jennifer Hoskins

Minutes of October 19, 2015 were reviewed & accepted as read.

PAT SCHNEIDER'S REPORT: New grease trap has been installed in kitchen allowing Center to be fully licensed for new Café program.

Second interviews will be conducted for two candidates for Program Coordinator position.

Heating & cooling problems are being addressed. More baseboard heating units will be added to the main dining area.

The town has appropriated money to do need assessment of all town buildings. Three companies will be invited to participate and one of the three will be chosen by the town to present a final assessment. Safety & security are priorities.

SARA'S REPORT: A Veteran's Day tribute has been planned and a Thanksgiving dinner will be offered with 85 seats available. Sara reiterated her wish to have more space for events. A holiday party is also planned for December.

Sara stated that the Center is offering many dynamic and creative programs. She will be working on encouraging members to attend and finding out why some seniors are not taking advantage of various events.

When staff positions are filled the accreditation process will begin. A notice will be sent out for anyone wishing to participate.

JUDY reported that holiday preparations are in full swing at Jensen's. A Community inspector visits Jensen's every Monday to monitor needs of the community. The goal is to encourage neighbors to keep their homes neat and clutter free so that all can have a sense of pride in their community.

JOHN reported that only 25 members of his community at Wright's Way are 60 and over. He would like to have more interaction among neighbors but states that at present nothing is planned. Because of his concerns the Commission will invite someone from each housing complex to future meetings. The Executive Director of The Housing Authority, Rebecca Fields, will be invited to a meeting at her convenience.

NORA STEVENS's letter regarding the need for more handicapped parking in the Downtown Storrs area was discussed. The committee decided to have Laurie draft a letter to the Town Council. She will present it at our next COA meeting for approval before sending it on to the Council from all committee members.

BETTEJANE gave her report regarding visits to four more Senior Centers.

She states that following her research into some of the amenities that other centers enjoy, her top list would include the following priorities:

1. A café that would offer coffee and snacks throughout the day. With enough volunteers to make it inviting.
2. An more welcoming entrance to the Center including a comfortable area for those waiting for transportation.
3. More storage.

Bev suggested forming a Hospitality Committee of volunteers to plan events.

The committee discussed the need to reach more seniors who do not have transportation. **JIM FEDANZA** stated that many residents of the nursing home experience the same problem especially for medical transport if family is unable to provide assistance. **PAT SCHNEIDER** stated that indeed more driver hours are needed but cannot share the hours allotted for trips with other needs that arise.

The meeting was adjourned @ 10:45am

Next meeting will be held on December 7, 2015 @ 9:30 am in Craft Room of Senior Center

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bev Korba, Secretary

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